

Harvestable Species Plan Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

Executive Summary

A Harvestable Species Plan and Environmental Assessment was completed in May of 2014 and replaces Apostle Islands National Lakeshore's Wildlife Management Plan for Harvestable Species (2007). The following document is the action plan and includes the selected alternative as well as pertinent background information.

The purpose of the Harvestable Species Plan is to provide direction for managing harvestable species within Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (referred to as the park). Harvestable species includes wildlife that can be legally hunted or trapped, as well as plant species that can be legally gathered by the general public or tribal members as part of their treaty reserved rights.

National Park Service (NPS) objectives for harvestable species include:

1. Managing processes and preserving ecologically sound native biological communities, while recognizing factors unique to island ecosystems.
2. Providing for appropriate state regulated hunting and trapping opportunities.
3. Providing for treaty-related hunting, trapping and gathering opportunities.
4. Providing for appropriate public plant gathering.

Species/groups that are addressed by this plan include: white-tailed deer; black bear; wolves; furbearers; small game; wild turkey; waterfowl; and certain plants/berries/nuts. Fishing and harvest of aquatic species is excluded from this plan. The plan is limited to terrestrial species.

Most wildlife species are managed consistent with appropriate State of Wisconsin regulations and as part of a larger state management zone. This includes black bear, furbearers, small game and waterfowl, wild turkey, and wolves (except for the Mainland Unit, Sand Island and Long Island, which have zero quotas). In addition, special park regulations apply park-wide and access permits are required for most harvest activities on islands within the park. There are special state regulations for deer harvest within the park that allow for greater harvest opportunities.

Limited gathering of edible fruits, berries, and mushrooms by the general public is permitted. Gathering must be done using traditional hand harvest methods and is limited to personal use and consumption. Exercise of treaty related rights, including hunting and trapping, as well as gathering of wild plants, is specifically addressed within the park's General Agreement with member tribes.